

**Regional Network on Homelessness**  
**Report from the Emergency Planning Committee**  
**Prepared by Dan Gray and Martha Taylor, Barnstable County Dept. of Human Services**

**Summary of 2021-2022 Winter/Emergency Response Outcomes and Recommendations**

**I. Background**

In 2018 the Regional Network on Homelessness prioritized Planning for Weather Related Emergencies and convened an Emergency Planning Committee which has met continuously since its inception. Comprised of key stakeholders, the committee has effectively responded to emerging crises to deliver needed resources and services to those experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness across the region.

**II. Winter Weather Response**

The winter months of November and December 2021 and January through March 2022 continued to pose challenges to the homelessness system as distancing guidance from the Dept. of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) decreased shelter capacity at St. Joseph's House and staffing shortages impacted providers across the human services spectrum. These factors added additional funding strain, as resources available prior to the COVID-19 pandemic had to be replaced with more expensive alternatives.

For the second Winter season, Emergency Solutions Grant funding administered through DHCD supplemented local fundraising enabling Duffy Health Center and Catholic Social Services to provide a Motel Response for those unable to access other sheltering options due to medical frailty, behavioral health challenges and shelter overflow.

**III. Data Sources**

For the purposes of this report, quantitative data are included from the following programs:

- St. Joseph's House Emergency Shelter and Overflow (Source: Martha Taylor- HMIS)
- Duffy Winter Programs- CDBG, In From the Streets (IFTS) Privately Funded, IFTS ESG- (Source: Pat Cawley and Karen Danskin- Duffy Health Center, Martha Taylor- HMIS)
- YYA Grants (Source: Dan Gray- Barnstable County, Pat Cawley- Duffy Health Center, Susan Mercier- Martha's Vineyard Community Services)
- PIT Count (Source: Martha Taylor- Barnstable County/HMIS)
- Belonging to Each Other, Seasonal Shelter Upper Cape (Source: Gina Torielli- BTEO)

- Martha's Vineyard Harbor Homes Shelter (Source: Karen Tewhey- Harbor Homes)
- Council of Churches, Motel Stays (Source: Marilyn Lariviere- Cape Cod Council of Churches)
- Nantucket Winter Programs (Source: Sue Myntinen- Nantucket Unitarian Universalist Meeting House)

#### **IV. Sheltering Program Descriptions**

**St. Joseph House (SJH)** Prior to 2020 the Individual Shelter had bed capacity for 30 men and 20 women. In addition, SJH had the capacity to serve up to 10 individuals in overflow beds. In May 2020, due to COVID-19, the shelter de-populated and bed capacity was reduced to 40. In Winter of 2021-2022, shelter capacity was expanded to 45 (30 men and 15 women). ESG funding provided by DHCD to account for depopulation brought capacity for the 2021-2022 Winter season to 45 shelter beds and 18 overflow hotel beds.

**In from the Street (IFTS)** is a privately funded year-round emergency sheltering program administered by Duffy Health Center intended to serve individuals who are unable to access St. Joseph's House due to physical or mental health conditions. The capacity of IFTS varies depending on need and available funding.

**In From the Streets ESG (IFTS-ESG)** is a US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funded program through the Emergency Solutions Grant as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) act. Duffy Health Center was awarded funding to provide a motel response during cold and inclement weather conditions for those unable to access other resources. IFTS-ESG provided services and resources previously funded through state and private sources that were unavailable due to the pandemic.

**Youth and Young Adult Winter Response** is a motel response administered by Duffy Health Center with a \$15,000 grant from Barnstable County's YYA program for those 24 and under.

**Barnstable County Regional Emergency Response** operates a system of regional shelters which are activated during extended weather- related conditions and power outages. The regional shelters were not activated during the period from November 2021 – April 2022.

**Belonging to Each Other (BTEO)** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit seasonal shelter and case management program located in Falmouth. BTEO receives donations and raises private funds to support its mission and has been in operation for seven years. The program rents two houses to use as temporary housing (Nov 1 – April 30) for up to 12 men and women, at a time, from the Falmouth Area.

**Harbor Homes Winter Shelter** at the Whaling Church in Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard provides temporary shelter for homeless adults from November 1, 2021, through April 30, 2022.

**Cape Cod Council of Churches** operates an emergency motel sheltering response from November 1 – April 30 for families and individuals.

## **V. Data Collected**

The following is a summary of utilization based upon data collected from the sources identified in Section II for the period **November 1, 2021 -- April 30, 2022** (N=181 nights). Of note, additional resources available due to the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in an extended Winter/Emergency Response season.

1. Taking into account the fluctuating capacity necessitated by COVID restrictions, **SJH Main Shelter** experienced average bed utilization of 96% during the reporting period (In FY21- 91%). In FY22 SJH provided 7,808 bed nights to homeless individuals. NOTE: HMIS records do not indicate whether SJH Winter guests were staying in the main shelter or overflow beds. St. Joseph's served 224 unduplicated individuals in the two program components (63% male/37% female).
2. **SJH Overflow** was activated during January, February and March for a total of 56 nights open and 748 bed nights used (FY21 available three months - 56 nights/286 bed nights).
3. **IFTS- Private** operated on 162 nights and provided 1,405 bed nights to 93 unduplicated individuals (54 male/39 female).
4. **IFTS- ESG** was open on 158 nights from November through April, providing 3,092 bed nights to 68 unduplicated individuals (40 male/28 female).
5. **IFTS- CDBG** was open on 122 nights, providing 723 bed nights to 38 unduplicated individuals (25 male/13 female).
6. **Duffy YYA** funded motel stays on 100 nights from January through April and provided 135 bed nights to 4 unduplicated individuals (2 male/2 female).
7. **BTEO** operated on 181 nights, providing 1,628 bed nights to 22 unduplicated individuals (9 male/13 female).
8. **Harbor Homes Emergency Shelter** operated on 154 nights and provided 900 bed nights to 27 unduplicated individuals (24 male/3 female).

9. **Nantucket Winter Response** operated on 29 nights and provided 49 bed nights to 4 unduplicated individuals (2 male/2 female).
10. **Council of Churches** provided 23 motel nights to 2 families (including 2 children under the age of 18) and 4 individuals for a total of 10 unduplicated persons served (5 adult male/3 adult female/1 child male/1 child female).

**VI. Direct Costs/Funding**

- SJH individual emergency shelter is provided by a contract between the Department of Housing and Community Development and Catholic Social Services.
- SJH- Received \$464,683 in funding for the hotel response providing an additional 18 beds due to guidance on de-population at the individual shelter.
- IFTS Private- Operates a motel response year-round and received \$68,247 in grants, funding from individual towns and private funding for FY22 including the Cape Cod Foundation, Catholic Social Services, Belonging to Each Other, and the United Way.
- IFTS ESG received \$317,900 through DHCD.
- IFTS CDBG received \$56,300 through the Town of Barnstable, which is an entitlement community for the Community Development Block grant.
- IFTS for Youth and Young Adults received \$15,000 from the Barnstable County Dept. of Human Services as the grant recipient for the Mass. Executive Office of Health and Human Services Unaccompanied Homeless Youth and Young Adults grant.
- IFTS COVID Response received \$40,000 through Cape Cod Healthcare to provide Isolation and Quarantine for those testing positive for COVID-19.
- Duffy Health Center provided an additional \$100,00 in “restricted funds” to account for funding shortfalls for the 2021-2022 season.
- BTEO- Privately funded, no budget provided.
- Harbor Homes Shelter- Received \$70,000 from Martha’s Vineyard Hospital to provide a shelter response at the Whaling Church. Additionally, they received \$40,000 from a

Community Development Block Grant to provide a hotel response for medically frail individuals.

- Council of Churches Homeless Ministry Program spent \$3,714.82 from donations.

## **VII. Recommendations**

1. The Regional Network on Homelessness partner agencies will work collaboratively to proportionally ration resources to ensure access to Winter Response services throughout the season.
2. In the event of a power outage impacting hotel/motel placements and/or other Winter Response resources, the Regional Network on Homelessness partner agencies will coordinate with private, regional and state entities to expedite restoration of power.
3. The Regional Network on Homelessness partner agencies will advocate at the local, state and federal level to support procurement requests, including funding Catholic Social Services in 2022-2023 to provide overflow and traditional shelter beds lost due to distancing guidelines.
4. The Regional Network on Homelessness partner agencies will continue efforts to identify Winter Response solutions that maximize use of available funding, including, but not limited to, development of a warming center.
5. The Regional Network on Homelessness partner agencies will support efforts to identify a location for St. Joseph's shelter that has the capacity to house a full array of services.
6. The Regional Network on Homelessness partner agencies will coordinate with involved stakeholders to develop a systemic response to move high users of Winter Response resources into stable housing.
7. The Regional Network on Homelessness will continue to convene the Emergency Planning Committee at least one time per month during months of operation and as-needed during the off season to prioritize coordination of weather-related emergency planning.

Cape and Islands Regional Network on Homelessness / MA-503 Cape Cod and Islands Continuum of Care  
Winter Emergency Response Shelter Census 11/1/2021 through 4/30/2022 (N=181 days)

	ST. Joseph's Shelter & Overflow		Duffy				Nantucket	MV / Harbor Homes	Cape Cod Council of Churches	Belonging To Each Other	TOTAL	AVERAGE # OF PERSONS SERVED IN SEASONAL SHELTER PER NIGHT (excluding St. Joseph's Main Shelter)
	Shelter	Overflow	CDBG	YYA	IFTS	IFTS - ESG						
Month	St. Joseph's Main Shelter - Average Utilization	Total Overflow Bed Nights Used	Total Bed Nights Used	Total Bed Nights Used	Total Bed Nights Used	Total Bed Nights Used	Total Bed Nights Used	Total Bed Nights Used	Total Bed Nights Used	Total Bed Nights Used	TOTAL BED NIGHTS USED (excluding St. Joseph's Main Shelter)**	
November	92.37%	0	66	0	68	24	0	11	8	275	452	15
December	88.89%	0	345	0	402	332	0	169	3	337	1,588	51
January	94.84%	221	199	19	448	820	27	225	0	299	2,258	73
February	100.00%	320	20	56	229	906	14	227	0	289	2,061	74
March	99.71%	207	93	33	226	547	6	268	1	209	1,590	51
April	99.78%	0	0	27	32	463	2		11	219	754	25
	95.93%	748	723	135	1,405	3,092	49	900	23	1,628	8,703	48
Total unduplicated individuals*		224	38	4	93	68	4	27	10	22		
Male		141	25	2	54	40	2	24	6	9		
Female		83	13	2	39	28	2	3	4	13		

**\*UNDULICATED CLIENT COUNTS**

- Total unduplicated count for St. Joseph's includes both Shelter and Overflow, as clients move back and forth from one to the other depending on bed availability and place on wait list
- Total unduplicated counts for Duffy pertain to individual funding sources only - it is assumed that individuals may have accessed services through more than one funding source, but there is insufficient identifying information to determine how frequently the crossover occurred
- Identifying information is not available for all individuals served during the Winter Season, and so it is impossible to determine how many total unduplicated individuals accessed shelter services during the Winter Season. Individuals may have received services from more than one agency, but that information is unavailable for tracking purposes.

**\*\* TOTAL BED NIGHTS USED**

- During the 2021-2022 Winter Season, an average of 48 individuals were served in the various Emergency Winter Shelter Programs, IN ADDITION TO those being served at St. Joseph's Main Shelter, which has a capacity of 45.
- In addition to the 748 overflow bed nights provided by St. Joseph's during the 2021-2022 Winter Season, the main shelter provided a total of 7,808 bed nights.
- Total number of nights St. Joseph's Shelter Overflow open = 56
- The TOTAL NUMBER of shelter bed nights used among all providers in the region during the season was 16,509. This total indicates an average of 91 individual clients were being served in shelter every night.